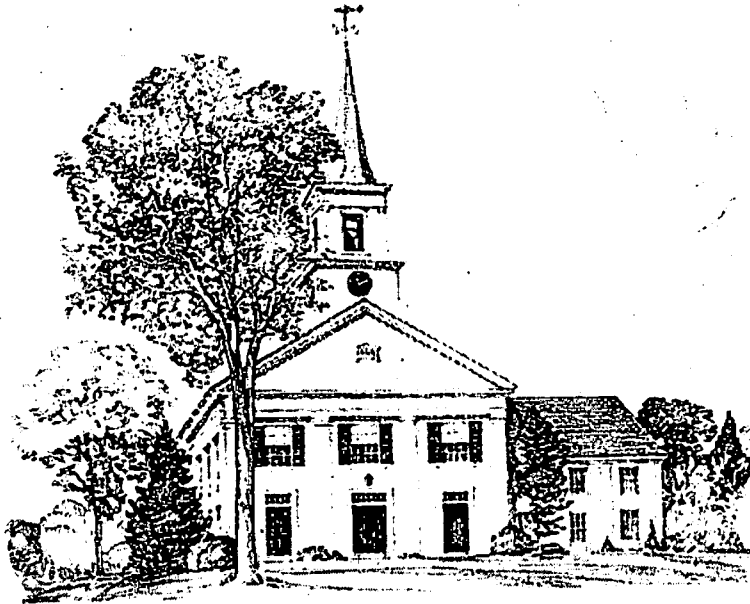


Thursday, May 13, 1965

DUXBURY CLIPPER

PILGRIM CHURCH



by Reuben Peterson

It is a friendly church as anyone will tell you who has come to Duxbury from out of state and has been warmed by the welcome of its pastor and members.

It is a church with a significant history and background. Pilgrim Church was built on its present site in 1844 with a gift of \$3600 together with the land, both given by Seth Sprague. It was known then as Wesleyan Methodist Church until September, 1870 when it was officially received into the Conference of Congregational Churches.

The actual name of Pilgrim Church was voted in a resolution three years later, on the 250th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. According to this resolution the name was felt to be most appropriate. "...whereas the Sacred Edifice in which we wor-

ship stands upon soil first trodden by the feet of the Pilgrim Fathers and consecrated by their enduring faith and holy order and heroic devotion. . ."

It is a growing and diversified church. In 1880 the Rev. William Lyle reported a membership of 76, 61 of which were women. Today the congregation numbers 491, and the Sunday School 257.

It has inspired leadership. Here is the close of Rev. Mr. Turrell's message at the last annual meeting: "The author of the Epistle to Diognetus described the members of the early Christian community as those who 'hold the world together'. May God help us, the members and friends of Pilgrim Church, to be that kind of people in our time."